



# MEDI861

## Research Thesis

SM9 Day 2017

*Medicine and Health Sciences Faculty level units*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Mary Simons

[mary.simons@mq.edu.au](mailto:mary.simons@mq.edu.au)

Catherine Dean

[catherine.dean@mq.edu.au](mailto:catherine.dean@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

32

Prerequisites

(MASP801 and MASP802 and MASP803 and MASP804 and MASP805 and MASP806) or  
(MAMP801 and MAMP802 and MAMP803 and MAMP804 and MAMP805 and MAMP806)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit involves the conduct of research appropriate to the subspecialisation of the student. Students are required to submit one to two original articles of a standard suitable for publication in peer-reviewed journals based on research undertaken during the candidate's enrolment at Macquarie University. This collection will also include a written plan as well as introductory and concluding documents that situate the paper(s) within the wider context of the research discipline and clinical practice. Through this unit the student will gain essential research skills to support an academic career.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Apply to clinical practice, a substantial body of knowledge which is relevant to and at the forefront of the medical/surgical specialties
- Plan and conduct an original research project, including reviews of relevant literature
- Integrate analysis and synthesis of literature into project design and execution
- Demonstrate competence in researching in chosen field and methodology

Demonstrate ability to write in relevant academic genres, including the preparation of articles for publication

Evaluate the research process to enhance future research strategies and clinical practice

## General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Grading Policy, which is available in Schedule 1 of the Assessment policy available at [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html)

To pass this unit, students must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn including marking rubrics.

### Penalties for late submissions

Late submissions will be penalised unless special consideration is granted by the unit convenor. The penalty is 10% per day or part thereof.

## MEDI861 ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

**The internal assessment tasks for MEDI 861 are listed below. In addition as this is the final unit in a professional doctoral program the scholar is required to pass a final examination.**

### FINAL EXAMINATION OF MEDI 861

Scholars must submit their work for internal review and formative feedback prior to final submission of the research thesis. Both the written thesis (submission due 18th June 2018) as well as an oral defence (28-30 August 2018) will be assessed to make the final determination of a grade for the MEDI 861. The final grade will be based on the recommendation of an examination panel comprising:

- a. The Executive Dean (or nominee) - Chair
- b. External Examiner 1
- c. External Examiner 2

External examiners will have an international standing in the field of research, relevant clinical specialist qualifications and be independent of Macquarie University.

**Information about the final examination procedure will be available to Scholars on the iLearn site**

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Research Plan</a>	20%	No	17 Nov 2017

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Oral Presentation</u>	20%	No	Apr 2018
<u>Research Thesis</u>	60%	No	18 Jun 2018

## Research Plan

Due: **17 Nov 2017**

Weighting: **20%**

In consultation with your clinical supervisor write a research plan or proposal that clearly sets out title, aims, hypothesis, background, literature review (brief), methodology, outcome measures, analysis, time line, budget and ethical considerations, reference list. Include an Appendix containing a framework for an ethics application or grant application, whichever is most appropriate to the topic. This work will be submitted through Turnitin (iLearn). Length: 2000 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Plan and conduct an original research project, including reviews of relevant literature
- Integrate analysis and synthesis of literature into project design and execution
- Demonstrate competence in researching in chosen field and methodology
- Demonstrate ability to write in relevant academic genres, including the preparation of articles for publication

## Oral Presentation

Due: **Apr 2018**

Weighting: **20%**

Prepare and present a 20-minute talk on your research project that includes context, question, summary of methodology and results, significance of results, conclusion and relevance to clinical practice.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply to clinical practice, a substantial body of knowledge which is relevant to and at the forefront of the medical/surgical specialties
- Plan and conduct an original research project, including reviews of relevant literature
- Integrate analysis and synthesis of literature into project design and execution
- Demonstrate competence in researching in chosen field and methodology
- Evaluate the research process to enhance future research strategies and clinical practice

## Research Thesis

Due: **18 Jun 2018**

Weighting: **60%**

Produce a research thesis from research conducted across the period of enrolment in the degree, particularly in the final year. The thesis should have a total word count of no more than 15,000 words.

The submitted thesis can be in the format of a traditional thesis or a thesis by publication:

Traditional Thesis Format:

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- References

Thesis by Publication Format:

- Introduction
- 1-2 manuscripts of a standard suitable for submission to a nominated peer-reviewed journal
- Conclusions and Recommendations for Future Research and Clinical Practice
- References

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply to clinical practice, a substantial body of knowledge which is relevant to and at the forefront of the medical/surgical specialties
- Plan and conduct an original research project, including reviews of relevant literature
- Integrate analysis and synthesis of literature into project design and execution
- Demonstrate competence in researching in chosen field and methodology
- Demonstrate ability to write in relevant academic genres, including the preparation of articles for publication
- Evaluate the research process to enhance future research strategies and clinical practice

## Delivery and Resources

This unit will be conducted over two sessions. Please liaise with your clinical supervisor about your one-to-one research supervision.

### Recommended textbook:

Hofmann, A. H. (2014). Scientific writing and communication : papers, proposals, and presentations / Angelika H. Hofmann, Ph. D., Yale University, New York Oxford University Press. In Library: Q223 .H63 2014 )

## Unit Schedule

There are no scheduled lectures or tutorials, except for the presentation seminars (**Assessment 2) on 4<sup>th</sup> August**. The time and venue will be communicated.

There will be an initial meeting with the unit convenor to discuss the aims, outcomes and progress required throughout this unit.

Each student will maintain regular communication with their clinical supervisor and unit convenor to ensure progress is satisfactory and milestones are being met.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html)

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint\\_management/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html)

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

### Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

**The Faculty Clinical Librarians** can assist with searching strategies, finding resources, using EndNote, referencing styles: <http://libguides.mq.edu.au/clinical-medicine>

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- Apply to clinical practice, a substantial body of knowledge which is relevant to and at the forefront of the medical/surgical specialties

- Plan and conduct an original research project, including reviews of relevant literature
- Integrate analysis and synthesis of literature into project design and execution
- Evaluate the research process to enhance future research strategies and clinical practice

## Assessment tasks

- Research Plan
- Oral Presentation
- Research Thesis

## PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Apply to clinical practice, a substantial body of knowledge which is relevant to and at the forefront of the medical/surgical specialties
- Plan and conduct an original research project, including reviews of relevant literature
- Integrate analysis and synthesis of literature into project design and execution
- Demonstrate competence in researching in chosen field and methodology
- Demonstrate ability to write in relevant academic genres, including the preparation of articles for publication
- Evaluate the research process to enhance future research strategies and clinical practice

## Assessment tasks

- Research Plan
- Oral Presentation
- Research Thesis

## PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:



## Learning outcomes

- Apply to clinical practice, a substantial body of knowledge which is relevant to and at the forefront of the medical/surgical specialties
- Plan and conduct an original research project, including reviews of relevant literature
- Integrate analysis and synthesis of literature into project design and execution
- Demonstrate competence in researching in chosen field and methodology
- Demonstrate ability to write in relevant academic genres, including the preparation of articles for publication
- Evaluate the research process to enhance future research strategies and clinical practice

## Assessment tasks

- Research Plan
- Oral Presentation
- Research Thesis

## PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcomes

- Apply to clinical practice, a substantial body of knowledge which is relevant to and at the forefront of the medical/surgical specialties
- Plan and conduct an original research project, including reviews of relevant literature
- Integrate analysis and synthesis of literature into project design and execution
- Demonstrate competence in researching in chosen field and methodology
- Evaluate the research process to enhance future research strategies and clinical practice

## Assessment tasks

- Research Plan
- Oral Presentation
- Research Thesis

## PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically

supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Apply to clinical practice, a substantial body of knowledge which is relevant to and at the forefront of the medical/surgical specialties
- Plan and conduct an original research project, including reviews of relevant literature
- Integrate analysis and synthesis of literature into project design and execution
- Demonstrate competence in researching in chosen field and methodology
- Demonstrate ability to write in relevant academic genres, including the preparation of articles for publication

### **Assessment tasks**

- Research Plan
- Oral Presentation
- Research Thesis

## **PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens**

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

### **Learning outcomes**

- Apply to clinical practice, a substantial body of knowledge which is relevant to and at the forefront of the medical/surgical specialties
- Plan and conduct an original research project, including reviews of relevant literature
- Integrate analysis and synthesis of literature into project design and execution

### **Assessment tasks**

- Research Plan
- Oral Presentation
- Research Thesis

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
15/11/2017	Final external examination date set.